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## **26TH HAS PIVOTAL** POINT IN ATTACK ON MARNE SALIENT

Chemin des Dames Veterans in Sector Northwest of Chateau-Thierry

SHARE IN JULY 18 STROKE

Given Difficult Task Before Path Opened for Straightaway Push Against Stubborn Enemy

To have been first of the American divisions not of the regular Army to participate in a great offensive, and to have taken part in every American offensive after that until the end—such is the proud record, of the 26th, the Yankee Division, which went forward to the memorable attack of July 18 in the section northwest of Château-Thierry and accomplished results therein which were to add still greater fame to the region where the 2nd Division had halted the German advance early in June.

When it relieved the 2nd Division intat sector on July 10, the 26th was already veteranized in all phases of trench warfare, for in the preceding winter it had gone into line on the Chemin des Dames on February 6 and remained there for 50 days, and humediately thereafter it had spent 86 days in the Toul sector.

The division in July was under the

after it had spent 86 days in the Tour sector.

The division in July was under the command of Maj-Gen. C. 15. Edwards and consisted of the 51st Infantry Brigade under Brig. Gen. C. H. Shelton, containing the 101st, and 102nd Infantry and the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion; the 52nd Infantry Brigade under Brig. Gen. C. H. Cole, consisting of the 103rd Machine Gun Battalion; the 51st Field Artillery Brigade under Brig. Gen. J. H. Sheltonira, Gun Battalion; the 51st Field Artillery Brigade under Brig. Gen. J. H. 102nd and 103rd Field Artillery Regiments, the 101st Engineers and other Mixisonial troops.

ments, the 101st Engineers and other divisional troops.

The sector northwest of Château-Thierry was not a pleasant place in the middle of July, 1918. The shallow and incomplete trenches extending from near Yaux and Bourèsches around the east and north edges of the Bois de Belleau to a point near Bussiares were under constant harmssing fire from the German batteries running far back across the hills to the northeast, while German machine guns and sulpers were comfortably installed all along the edges of the woods, the banks of the Ru Gobert creek and in the ruined villages of Belleau and Torcy, close to the American front lines.

#### Orders to Go Over

After a week of existence under such circumstances the situation became itk-some, and there was no regret or hesitation in the ranks of the 26th when, on the night of July 17, orders came from General Liggett, commanding the First United States Corps, to go over next morning and classe the Germans out. There was no hesitation, but from the tactical standpoint, the problem was a difficult one. As the division lay in sector, the 101st Infantry was on the extreme right near Vaux, facing north; then came the 102nd Infantry, extending east; then the 104th Infantry, in the Bois de Belleau, facing east and northeast, and then the 103rd Infantry on the extreme left, facing northeast and north.

By the terms of the general counter-

nd north.

By the terms of the general counterfensive, the 26th Division was to act
a pivot until the bulge in the Allied
ont running northwest toward the

### **ALLIED SOLDIERS EXEMPTED FROM** TAX ON LUXURIES

Officers Can Save 972 Francs, Men 208 Every Four Months

Officers, enlisted men, in fact, all uni-formed members of the A.E.F.—which nethides members of the auxiliary servi-ces—are to be exempted from payment of the French luxury tax. Under a de-sistent of the French Minister of Finance, eccently made public, this tax will be refunded by commercial houses, hotel teepers, restaurant proprietors and others upon purchases or payment of ills. The decision affects all members of the Allied Armies.

the Allied Armies ditures of both officers and enlisted men. The former are exempted to the extent of 972 francs every four months and the latter to 208 francs for a similar period. Books of tax rebate checks are issued which may be renewed at the expiration of this period when presentation of the covers of the old book is made. Although there is no law against the issuance of two books at the same time, or renewal of an old one, before the prescribed four months is ended, the conditions state that "the good faith of the American E. F. is pledged" and that the coupons are "non-transferable."

The refund of the luxury tax will mean a saving to soldiers in many ways. This tax is clargeable on theater tickets, hotel rooms, luncheons and dinners in certain restaurants, motion pictures—in fact, everything that is not strictly essential to one's very existence.

The distribution of books containing coupons, varying in tax saving from one to five francs, will be general throughout all France.

In order to make any of the coupons valid, the owner of the book must en-

out all France.

In order to make any of the coupons valid, the owner of the book must endorse the necessary number of coupons at the establishment where a taxable purchase is made, inserting his name, rank and organization, number of identification card, in the case of officers, and serial number, in the case of enlisted men.

#### 3rd LIEUT., U.S.A.

"Third Lieutenants," the latest thing in uncommissioned officers, are beginning to make their appearance in the replacement camps. They are the men who finished the officers training schools after the "no more commissions" order was issued from Washington. Since they are supposed to fit in somewhere between a buck and a second loot, they rank as "Dovetails."

buck and a second root, they take "Tovetails."

Most of the men wear a black stripe on their sleeve which, it has been suggested, may be considered as a delicate tribute to the memory of the too-late Sam Browne.

# YANKS WILL NOT HAVE TO REBUILD FRENCH VILLAGES

And There Never Was Any Such Boche Killer as "Edison Gas"

TRENCH RENT" ALSO BUNK

M. Tardien Gives Official Denial to War Rumors That Had Ger-

Three of the most persistent of the dozens of rumors which circulated through the A.E.F. during the war, now believed to have been put in circulation by German propagndists in an attempt to undermine the friendliness of French and Americaus, were finally set at rest this week by an authoritative deniel issued by M. André Tardien, the French High Commissioner for Franco-American Affairs.

issued by M. André Tardieu, the French High Commissioner for Franco-American Affairs.

There was one fine yarn which traveled up and down the A.F.F., on the subject of the French towns destroyed in the path of the American advance. Rumor had it that, before the wicked American gunners were allowed to blast the Germans out of the helpless French villages in which they had dug themselves in, the French Government raised a restraining hand and stipulated first that, before they might fire a shot, the rough Americans must promise to rebuild every village.

Then, the story went wildly on, Genral Tershing, in order to press on toward victory, reluctantly gave his promise. This comic serial, which never had a grain of truth in-it, is dismissed by M. Tardieu's denial.

"Edison Gas" Blows Up

#### "Edison Gas" Blows Up

"Edison Gas" Blows Up

He also takes the trouble to deny the grotesque yarn which furnished a climax to that long series of rumors about "Edison gas." The Americans went into the war with a secret conviction that, in some mysterious way, Mr. Edison would lock himself up in his laboratory and win it for them. Therefore there was soon fourishing some low-down that he had invented a gas so deatly that, with a single barrage from the gas engineers, whole German divisions would be obliterated. When summer wore on and no evidences of such wholesale and agreeable destruction in the American sectors was forthcoming, there had to be some explanation of what had befallen the Edison gas. Of course the real explanation was that there was no such thing as Edison gas.

But that would never do. So rumor, speaking with a pronounced German account, was soon busy with the tale that the French had cruelly forbidden the use of it by the brave Americans, because its release in any region would render the soil of that region sterie for

the French had cruelly forbidden the use of it by the brave Americans, because its release in any region would render the soil of that region sterile for seven years. Edison gas was a myth from beginning to end, but its finatchapter was the most fantastic of all.

The "Trench Rent" story is also las Continued on Page 2

# PRESIDENT READY FOR PARLEY'S START

Returns to Paris After Tumultuous Welcome in Italy

After a trans-Alpine campaign that brought him such a laurel welcome as few victorious warriors have received, President Wilson returned to Paris from his peaceful invasion of Italy with plans if or early conferences on the questions of of the Legue of Nations and America's part in the peace conference preliminaries, which are expected to begin about the 14th. The conference itself is expected to open around the 20th. The President was received by the Pope at Rome and inter attended the American Episcopal Church. Later the demonstrations reached their dearly welcome growing with his stay, and until the demonstrations reached their height in Turin, where the people rushed the building from whose balcony he

the building from whose balcony he spoke in a seeming attempt literally te throw themselves at his feet. Every-where the keynote of the speeches was "a just and lasting peace."

Condolences to Mrs. Roosevelt

Congolences to Mrs. Roosevelt
Pleasure in the triumph of the visit
was touched with grief when the news
of the death of Colonel Roosevelt was
communicated to the party after the
train started on its return trip. The
President immediately cabled condicences
to Mrs. Roosevelt and ordered the lowering of flags on the Government buildings in Washington.

ings in Washington.

After a short rest the President immediately began conferences with the American delegates who are shaping the American memorandum on the League of Nations, which will be discussed with the plans of the other delegates taking

the plans of the other delegates than part in the preliminary meetings.

It is expected that the President will attend the first meetings of the conference itself. It is believed that if it be comes necessary he may return to take comes necessary he may part in later discussions.

### **KRUPP ANTIQUES** SPURNED BY U.S. ARMISTICE BOARD

Ruled Out; New Guns Demanded

200 PLANES HANDED OVER NOT ALL NEW DEPARTURES

Souvenir Store Left Behind Includes 75,000 Helmets, Many Giant Swords

Officers of the American receiving countission at Coblenz are today busy checking up on the war material which the Germans, according to the terms of the armistice, are handing over.

The enemy, it may be noted, is living up to the conditions of the armistice in every way, though there was one little matter having to do with heavy guandan another with regard to motor trucks, that had to be rectified. Of that, more later.

that had to be rectified. Of that, more later.

One of the chief items being received by the American commission is airplanes, of which 200 have been received. They are machines of many sizes, makes and purposes. They are taken into Coblenas rapidly as the Germans can get them on cars and ship them, many coming direct from the factories about Berlin. One in cach 20 is tested, according to armistice regulations, by German fivers, of whom there are (or rather, were) two. One, a youth of 23 weighing 91 pounds, and claiming to be the man who shot down Quentin Roosevelt, suffered a few fractured ribs and a broken wrist recently while making a landing after a test. The machine was wrecked. Result: A letter to the Germans requiring them to furnish another machine.

The machines must be completely equipped and in as perfect shape as they would be if a Yank fiver wanted one for work over the German lines, even to the extent of a slip of machine gun bullets.

#### New Type of Fokker

New Type of Fokker

Some of the Fokkers being turned over are very fast and powerful, and many of them of a brand new type, heretofore not flown on any front. To register a perfect test they must make a 15-minute flight. There are also somic Rolands, while the final lot of 00 contained many velerans of the western front, all, Maj. Lewis Landes, Q.M.C., head of the receiving commission ways, in excellent con-

dition.

The Germans also have turned in 2.500 machine guns to the Americans, most of them being new and all in good condi-

maching gins to the Americans, most of them being new and all in good condition.

But it was when they trundled out the big gins that the first hitch arose.

"What's this?" asked the officers of the commission as some cannon were slipped into view. "Looks like the vintage of 1870."

"Oh. no, sir," histliy replied the German ordnance officer. "They are of 1873 medel."

"Well," replied an American officer, as he waved his hand, "take 'em away. You never used many of these giuis in actual battle. We want some of your modern guns, some of more recent model: and we want 150 of them, and they must be in perfect order and ready to fire, as the terms of the armistice decree."

At latest reports the guns demanded were on their way to Coblenz.

715 Motor Trucks Delivered

#### 715 Motor Trucks Delivered

The American's quota of motor trucks which are being handed over is about 1,200. Of these 715 have been delivered, in good order. Of the ofbers, 311 are in second class shape and need repairs of various kinds before they can be acepted, 250 are in such shape that the commission refuses to accept them, while 52 would make first class scrap. The Germans are now rounding up acceptable machines.

machines.
In addition, the Boche in the American area has left behind him, such vast quantities of war material, some of it used and some brand new, that it will take weeks before the commission can check over the carefully compiled list which has been turned over by the enemy. This list consists of 36 pages, 58 items to the page, all written in methodi-

Continued on Page 2

## **MONTE CARLO CHIPS** NO LONGER ON SALE

anks on Leave Boost Pot, **Garcons Walk Away** With It

The Prince of Monaco may be hopping mad when he gets back to his home at Monte Carlo and finds out the Americans have run off with so much of his ivory money that five franc eartwheels with the pictures of Louis Philippe and the Napoleous are being used instead of chips on the Casino tables. In fact, the Prince may have heard the news already, for the word has gone out that selling chips as sourceits to American soldiers is strictly defendu in the principality.

Meanwhile the exchange rate for th Meanwhile the exchange rate for the prince's ivory currency is rising every day, and there is a suspicion that the Monte Carlo restaurant and hotel waiters' union has been profiteering. Anyway five frame chips are selling our side the Casino at six frames or more. Now the five frame ivory chip can't be hought from your hotel waiter for less than eight frames, and if you look good it costs more.

than eight francs, and if you look good it costs more.

The five franc chip is a modest looking affair, the color of a half baked meerschaum pipe, inlaid with a band of filigree metal. There are other chips of red and green and blue and yellow, fancier ones, with face values of ten francs, 100 francs and up, but the A.E.F. has modestly refrained from investing in them.

Soldiers on leave are admitted to the Casino only between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m.

Casino only between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., when there is no playing.

# TWELFTH OF A.E.F. HOME OR EN ROUTE; BATTLESHIPS HELP

German Models of 1873 Total of 10,435 Officers and 140,689 Enlisted Men Have Sailed

Many Fighting Vessels Start West With O.D. Warriors Watching Gobs Do the Work

Ten thousand, four hundred and thirty-five officers and 140,050 enlisted men of the A.F.F.—not quite one-twelfth—have sailed for the United States.

These are the latest figures from G.H.Q. They include all soldiers who have left France and England since the first American troops set foot on European soil nearly 20 months ago—officers and men who went back to training camps, sick and wounded, and those who have gone since the armistice. The large proportion of officers is due to the number sent back as instructors.

Several American bat Helships joined the procession of home bound steamships carrying Yank troops in the last few

procession of home bound steamship carrying Yank troops in the last fev

chrying kans the days.

The former German liners President Grant and Agumemon also were among the transports sailing, the President Grant carrying 5,000 men, including the Ch. P.A. Brigade.

Grant carrying 5.000 men, including the Sth F.A. Brigade.

The list of late sailing includes:
S.S. President Grant, 8th F.A. Brig.
and casuals.
S.S. Agamemono, 345th Inf., less 2nd
Bn. and Co. M (87th Div.); 345th Trench
Mortar Battery (88th Div.).
U.S.S. Georgia, 6th Trench Mortar Bn.;
31th Trench Mortar Bntery.
U.S.S. Kansus, 7th Trench Motor Bn.;
37d Anti-Aircraft Sector; three casual
companies.

St. Mannsis 7th Trench Motor Bn.; 3rd Anta-nasis 7th Trench Motor Bn.; 3rd Anta-nasis 7th Trench Motor Bn.; 3rd Anta-nasis 8.8. Minesota, casuals. S.S. Mieuw Amsterdam. 30ist F.A. complete; 8th, 16th, and 11th Divisional Adv. Schools detachments; casuals, sick and wounded.
S.S. Santa Toresa, 15th F.A.; casuals, sick and wounded.
S.S. Santa Marta, casuals. S.S. Cape May, casuals. S.S. Santa Marta, and Sup. Co.; 4th Anti-Alreraft Sector; Hgrs, and Sup. Co.; 4th Anti-Alreraft Santa-Marta, Casuals. S.S. Runnington. Sth. Ardillers. C. J. C.S. S. F. Louis, 36th F.A. (91st Div.). U.S.S. St. Louis, 36th F.A. (91st Div.

# C.-IN-C. GETS CALL FROM HIS C.-IN-C.

And Then a Corporal Has to Give the President the Right Steer

One man's record for never having had to "snap out of it" at the personal command of his superior since he has been in the A.E.F. was spoiled when the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy ordered Gen. John J. Pershing to put hack a tent pole as he had found it during the inspection of quarters of the 26th Division on Christmas Day.

On the tour of inspection of a billet over a French stable the General picked and a collarish tent pole from one of

On the tour of inspection of a billet over a French stable the General picked up a collapsible tent pole from one of the banks and demonstrated its operation to the President. When he had dished he tossed it back on the bank. "Perhaps this mai's kir will be inspected again," the President said as they started to leave, "and he wants it just as you found it." Then he turned to the General with a smile and said, "As your commanding officer, General Pershing, I order you to replace that tent pole as you found it."

The General saluted, carried out the order, faced about, snapped out a second salute, and reported the order foeed. The little one-act episode brought down the house—or, more properly, the

#### **BREST FLIES PENNANT**

The port of Brest received its pennant The port of brest received its pennant of victory, won in the recently concluded face to Berlin freight-unloading contest, it the hands of Brig. Gen. W. D. Connor, thief of Staff, S.O.S., on Sunday after-

noon.

The public ceremony included a march to the docks by the entire Stevedore regiment, and the presentation of the individual unit trophy, also a pennant to Company No. 854, which led the Stevedore outfits of the winning port. General Connor made a short complementary address, thanking the officer and men in the name of his chief, Majo General Harbord, for their zeal. About 3,000 officers and men witnessed the

3,000 officers and men witnessed the presentation and the pennant is now duly flying from the port's chief flag-staff.

Company No. 854 is now getting ready to sail home, the return to the States being part of its reward. Its members expect to leave within two weeks, and will be mustered out immediately.



VERYWHERE on earth American flags today are flying at half mast, for T. R. is dead. He whose distilled mast, for T. R. is dead. He, whose vitality, as great as America's own, could energize a continent, died tranquilly in his sleep last Monday morning. The returning soldiers will find many changes in their country, but none that will touch them all more nearly than this, for our generation has lost a great companion. It will seem strange when we go home—for a long time it will seem strange—no longer to hear his familiar voice there, no longer to see the light from his window shining across America.

window shining across America.

Never did any American have quite such a hold as his on the imaginations of his countrymen, and there is no American anywhere in the world today who has heard unmoved the news of his death. Yet on the affections of the A.E.F. he had a special claim. His four sons were of us. One lies buried now in a field near the Oureq, the wounds of another long since sent him home, and it was a new Colonel Rossevelt who, limping slightly, led the troops of the 26th Infantry into Germany. Of all the banners won in a long and ardent life, that was the proudest—that four-starred flag which hung outside the house at Oyster Bay. His four sons and his heart were with us and, as all men know, it was the great grief of his life that he could not be with us himself.

# MARIE-LOUISE, NO. 1 ON ORPHANS' LIST, HAS BIG HOLIDAY

Great Excitement Attends **New Year's Opening** in Pommard

Stors and Stripes Own Mascot Only One of Hundreds Remembered During Gift Season

The staff of THE STARS AND STRIPES is in disgrace with its own orphan department. At a time when all the parrains in the A.E.F. are supposed to be planning seriously for the future of the French youngsters they have adopted, the staff forgot all about the future of the property and property and property and property and property and on June 2012. to be planning screens, of the French youngsters they have adopted, the staff forgot all about the future of its own mascot, and on January 2 blew in all its france on a lot of preposterous inessentials like dolls and mechanical toys and candy. However, when Marie-Louise Patriarcie finally fell askep that night—her lips still a bit smeary with checolate, one arm embracing the new doll, whose one arm embracing the new doll, whose

lips still a bit smeary with checolate, one arm embracing the new doll, whose fair curls match her own, the other reaching out to protect its go-cart from any burglars that might cover it—when exhausted from the bewildering excitement of a most wonderful day, she fell asleep at last, she was probably not worrying much about her future. And as long as your parrains live, you need not worry, Marie-Lonise!

When, on New Year's Day, the house of cities was a single and the house of the hous

obeyed. The massed of the bouse—or, more properly, the stable.

Another incident in the day that took the doughboys by storm was the President's attempt to get 30 veterans, standing rigid at attention, to "relax a minute and look as though you loyed the story," as he put it.

"I don't know what command to give to make you do it," their Commander-in-Chief confessed, but a corporal helped him out. He stepped forward and commanded, "At ease!" The men obeyed and relaxed, and the President went down the line talking informally with them.

Sergeant Gets Detail

#### Sergeant Gets Detail

Sergeant Gets Detail
The task of making the pilgrimage
was assigned to the most rotund sergeant on the staff because of his superbcommand of the French language.
When, after a night spent in the fragrant and somewhat crowded couloir of
a third-class compartment in a train six
house lata he omerged all bedgeked with a third-class compartment in a trail set hours late, he emerged all bedeeked with lumpy packages and his own personal traveling library, he may have looked like Santa Claus, but he felt like the devil. Yet he would make the same journey every night of his life if, at the end, he could see such a wide-eyed, welcoming smile as irradiated disuol and dingy Pommard when he encountered Marie-Louise.

inings Pommard when Marie-Louise.

For word that one of Marie-Louise for word come to town soon reactions the che FOR WORD THAT ONE OF MARIE-LOUISE'S PARTHINS HAD COME TO KNOW SOON TO RECHEE HE PARTHING THE PAR

Continued on Page 2

# GOVERNMENT AID FOR SOLDIERS IN SEARCH OF JOBS

**Employment Service of** Labor Department Perfects Plan

1800 FRANCS FOR HER SHARE OFFICERS AND MEN SERVED

National Defense Council's 180, 000 Local Organizations Will Aid in Task

Linison between the man who wants work and the man who wants workers is being established by the United States Department of Labor for the benefit of all demobilized American soldiers and

all demobilized American soldiers and sailors.

To the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor has been delegated the task of finding jobs for the returning fishlers of the Army and Navy With the appeaval of the Secretar's of War, Navy, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture and Labor, constituting in part the Council of National Defense, the Employment Service will devote itself almost exclusively to obtaining work for the discharged soldier and sailor.

The Council of National Defense has \$150,000 local organizations, comprising its membership, upon which it may call for assistance in placing men into the jobs best suited to them. The bulk of this work, however, will be done by \$200 widely scattered employment browns of the Pepartment of Labor.

If the soldier looking forward to demobilization has a position awatting him in the States, very well and good. If he has, not, the Employment Service is so arranged that the moment a ship sails from either of the base ports, men in the States, very well and good. If he has, not, the Employment Service is so arranged that the moment a ship sails from either of the base ports, men in the States, very well and good. If he has, not, the Employment Service is so arranged that the moment a ship sails from either of the base ports, men in the States, very well and good. If he wants when he gets back home.

When the soldier reaches his point of the Among those at the forwarding camp and paid. They are then sent to the "clean camp." They are then sent to the "clean camp." They are then sent to the "clean camp." They are then sent to the "case are formed into the companies ranging as high as 1:500 men to the companies ranging as high as 1:500 men to the companies are formed into one companies promises reaging as high as 1:500 men to the companies and they are shear formed into the casuals from one State are formed into one companies are formed into the casuals from one State are formed into the casuals from one State are formed into the casuals from one State are

wants when he gets back home.
When the soldier reaches his point of demobilization, he will be hauded an application blank. On it he will indicate the sort of work he wants, his qualifications for it and where he prefers to be employed. The application will be handled by one of the SOO employment

cations for it and where he prefers to be employed. The application will be handled by one of the SOO employment bureaus of the Department of Lubor, all of which have been marshaled by the Employment Service for that purpose. In order that returning soldlers and sailors may be fully informed how best to avail themselves of the Employment Service, there will be instructive language there is the sailors and posters on all homegoing troopships.

Officers and men alike will be served by the Employment Service.

#### SHIP BOARD SEEKS MEN FOR MERCHANT MARINE

There is a big possibility that many discharged soldiers of the A.E.F. will become sailors, not in the United States Navy, but as enlisted and officer personnel for the ships to be supplied and operated under the program of the United States Shipping Board. Between three and five hundred thousand

Continued on Page 2

## 80.000 DO SQUADS RIGHT SIX WEEKS **WAITING FOR BOAT**

Veterans Talk of Good Old **Bugleless Days on March** to Drill Field

675 TARGETS AT ONE TIME

very Division to Go Through Embarkation Center at Le Mans on Way Home

Eighty thousand doughboys in the rea of the American Embarkation area of the American Embadantacton Center of France, with headquarters at Le Mins, began their sixth week of drill at squads right and squads left and

Le Amis, began their sixth week of the at squads right and squads left and squads right front into line Monday morning at eight o'clock.

Bugles, hundreds of them, in almost every village in the area of a radius of 75 kilometers wide by 150 kilometers long, sounded out drill call, and doughnoys, startled from early morning drowsiness, made a last hurried inspection of riles and fell in line white irritated top sergeants stood in mud over their sheetops and bawled commands.

As the long columns moved forward in line of companies toward their respective drill fields, the doughboys, as a means of distracting their thoughts from the day's work that lay before them, discussed incidents of two, three and four months back, when there were no drills or bugle calls to disturb them, "It wasn't like this two months ago, was it?" said one "What were we doing two months age anyway?" "Why, don't you remember?" said an

"Why, don't you remember?" said an other. "Old Jerry was running rings fround himself trying to keep out of our

way."

The first speaker reflected a moment, then a broad grin wrinkled his face. He tooked ahead at the long stretch of muddy road that would lis way toward the drill field. The grin disappeared.

#### Things of the Past

And so it went throughout every unit.
Inst as a means of distracting their
thoughts from the present, they discussed things of the past—days spent in
undedy trenches, days under shell fire in
the Argonne—until, finally, the muddy
surface of the drill field brought other
and less pleasant thoughts. For almost
the command were to the commany clerk. very man, even to the company who found it difficult to keep step,

who found it difficult to keep step, was a retern of a real war. By 9.90 o'clock 675 targets on five different ranges were being raised and lowered by the men behind the butts. Holes in the bull's eyes were being plugged up every few minutes and it was seldom necessary to mark anything ander a four. All day long the area of the American Emberkelium Centre echood with rolling

under a four.

All day long the area of the American Embarkation Center echoed with rolling zun fire and the stern commands of platoon and company commanders. Now and then, during the squad dell, a corporal's voice, stern but rather self-conscious, could be heard above the din of the day's business. Colonels and majors also found time to make themselves heard.

Unless present plans are changed, every division now in Germany with the Army of Occupation and every division now in the area of what was once the Zone of Advance will eventually pass through the American Embarkation Center on its way home. The area is now occupied by six divisions, while four others have been ordered in. About ten divisions will occupy the area at one time, and it may be possible, if necessary, to accommodate more.

The divisions are usually sent in by battalions. Upon arrival the men are sent to the Forwarding Camp, located about three kilometers out of Le Mans, where they are placed in the "dirty Camp" and installed in tents until they

In Full French Equipment
Among those at the forwarding camp
at present are the four regiments of
colored troups of the 93rd Division,
which were with the 157th French Division from June until the signing of the
armistice. When the buttalleus began
coming in they presented an aspect
which caused sergeants major, supply
sergeants and personnel officers to pull
their hair and utter sentences that were
unbecoming gentleune.

sergeants and personnel officers to pull their hair and utter sentences that were unbecoming gentlemen.

For the colored regiments came in with full French equipment. The clothes they were afforded the only means of identification. A lick-cenant whose business it was to see that the battalions were properly cased for was much disturbed and agitated when a colored back private saluted him in the latest French style.

About that time the back private's left foot started off on an ur 'thorized expedition and he sat down's. 'the muddy road. He got up and swore violently in French.

"What's that?" said the lleutenant.

"Don't you know what dat am?" said the colored doughboy. "Dat's French for damn and several other things."

The American Embarkation Camp is prepared to handle as many men as can be cared for at the base ports.